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ABSTRACT

This is the tenth in a series of Los Rios Community College District fall student profiles. These annual summaries provide the district and its colleges with data on student demographics and enrollment trends, important information for successful planning to meet the needs of a changing student clientele. The data presented in the fall 1999 profile illustrate the overall growth of the district's enrollment as well as changing demographic trends. Highlights include: (1) enrollment has increased annually beginning in fall 1996 and continuing through fall 1999 by 5.9%; (2) the fall 1999 distribution of ethnic students at Los Rios was 39.6%, generally mirroring the fall 1998 pattern; (3) there continues to be a slight decline in the proportion of white student enrollment at Los Rios colleges, decreasing from 58.3% in fall 1994 to 55.9% in fall 1999; (4) the trend of an older student body at Los Rios continues, with 21.5% of all students enrolled being 40 or more years of age; (5) there was an increase in the number of younger students; and (6) attendance patterns have shifted over the past five years, with fewer students taking courses offered only during the evening and more attending both day and evening courses in fall 1999. (JA)

J. Beachler

Los Rios Community College District
Office of Institutional Research

Fall 1999 Student Profile

Based upon First Census Data

October 1999

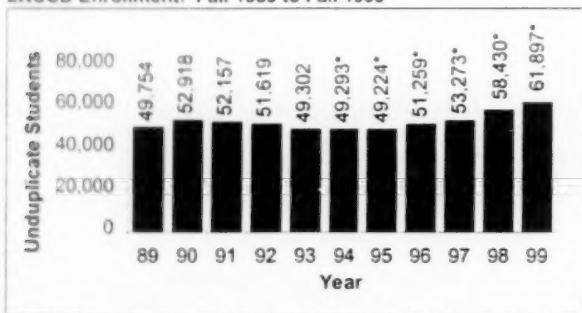
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This is the tenth in a series of Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) Fall Student Profiles. These annual summaries provide the District and its colleges - American River College (ARC), Cosumnes River College (CRC) and Sacramento City College (SCC) - with data on student demographics and enrollment trends, important information for successful planning to meet the needs of our changing student clientele. The Fall 1999 Student Profile includes a brief analysis of the separate demographic data for the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers which are part of Cosumnes River College. This report presents student enrollment data and Weekly Student Contact Hours (WSCH) based on official Fall First Census reports that are issued at the beginning of the fourth week of classes. The report is also based upon demographic data generated from the official Fall Fourth Week Census research database. Analysis of demographic data since Fall 1993 includes all courses which have started as of the fourth week of classes, in addition to all full-term and first nine-week offerings. Analysis of student demography is based upon data that *excludes* those students who have dropped their courses by first census and those who have no corresponding match on the course schedule file.

District Enrollment

Chart 1 presents fall district enrollment data for the Los Rios Community College District. The enrollment pattern tends to reflect variations in state funding and school-age population trends. Fee increases that took effect in 1993 probably contributed to the rather large enrollment drop for that year, a drop that followed two years of more subtle decline. Enrollment was stabilized the following year, declining by less than 0.02% (9 fewer students) in Fall 1994 and in Fall 1995 by only 0.1% (69 fewer students).

Chart 1
LRCCD Enrollment: Fall 1989 to Fall 1999



*Data revisions occur in July, following the end of each academic year.

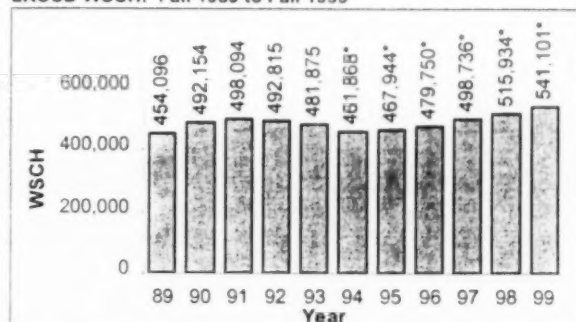
Since then, enrollment has increased annually beginning with a 4.1% increase in Fall 1996, a 3.9% increase in Fall 1997 and a 9.7% enrollment increase in Fall 1998. Los Rios enrollment increases continued in Fall 1999, with a 5.9% increase.

Enrollment increased at each of the Los Rios colleges in Fall 1999: by 5.5% at ARC (to 27,126), by 5.8% at CRC (to 9,552, noting that Folsom Lake and El Dorado enrollment figures are now reported separately), by 5.4% at SCC (to 19,213) and by 10.1% (to 6,006) at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers.

District Weekly Student Contact Hours

Similar to District enrollment in Fall 1999, Weekly Student Contact Hours (WSCH) increased, but by a slightly lower 4.9%. As indicated by Chart 2, this is the fifth annual increase that has ended the previous three-year pattern of decreasing WSCH that started in 1992.

Chart 2
LRCCD WSCH: Fall 1989 to Fall 1999



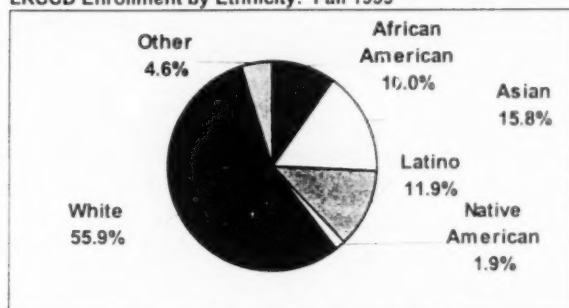
*Data revisions occur in July, following the end of each academic year.

After a decline in WSCH, which started in Fall 1992, WSCH began increasing steadily from 1995 forward. Moreover, the ratio of WSCH to enrollment has been fairly consistent from Fall 1989 to Fall 1997, averaging 9.4 during these nine years. However, the WSCH to enrollment ratio at 4th week was a lower 8.8 in Fall 1998 and a slightly lower 8.7 in Fall 1999. This may be reflective of the combined effects of an older student population who tend to take lighter unit loads as well as the increase in student enrollment at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers where students also tend to take lighter unit loads due to facilities limitations. In addition, new high school graduates in Fall 1998 and Fall 1999 -- a group that generally enrolls in a higher number of units than the average student -- took a slightly lower average unit load than one year earlier at First Census review. These shifts in the course taking patterns of Los Rios students will tend to impact the WSCH to enrollment ratios.

District Enrollment by Ethnicity

Chart 3 depicts the District's ethnic composition in Fall 1999. The Fall 1999 distribution of ethnic students at Los Rios is 39.6%, generally mirroring the Fall 1998 pattern. The total proportion of ethnic minorities among the fall semester Los Rios student population shows a slight increase from the 38.3% in Fall 1994.

Chart 3
LRCCD Enrollment by Ethnicity: Fall 1999



Asian students continue to be the largest minority group enrolled at Los Rios, but the proportion of Asian students enrolled district-wide decreased slightly, from 16.0% in Fall 1994 to 15.8% in Fall 1999. The remaining ethnic composition of the District's Fall 1999 enrollment is as follows: Latino's, 11.9%; African Americans, 10.0%; Native Americans, 1.9%; and the remaining 4.6% include students from various other ethnic minority groups and those students who declined to state their ethnicity. There continues to be slight declines in the proportion of white student enrollment at Los Rios colleges, decreasing from 58.3% in Fall 1994 to 55.9% in Fall 1999.

There are some interesting differences in Fall 1999 enrollment based on ethnicity at the college level. CRC ethnic enrollment proportions without students from the two centers allows us to evaluate the

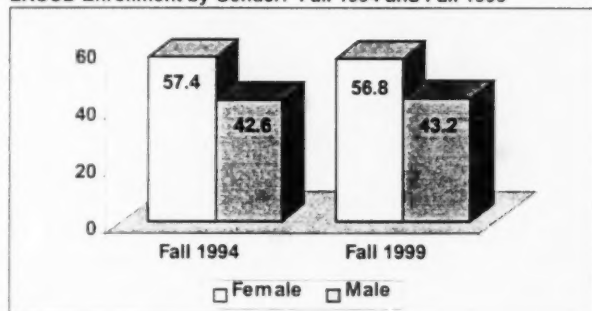
enrollment patterns of students specific to the CRC campus. Overall the CRC ethnic composition looks more like that of SCC than like the district as a whole. CRC enrolls the highest proportion of Asian students (25.8%) and also enrolls higher proportions of African Americans (14.6%) and Latinos (13.2%) than comparable District enrollment proportions. SCC also enrolls a higher proportion of Asians (22.9%), African Americans (13.3%) and Latinos (15.7%) when compared to District enrollment proportions. ARC enrollment based on ethnicity shows a lower proportion in each of the ethnic categories except Native Americans (noting the small numbers) and a higher proportion of white student (64.5%) enrollment, although the proportion of white students enrolled at ARC has decreased by 4.4% since Fall 1994.

Analysis of the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers' Fall 1999 ethnicity profile results in a much different enrollment pattern. There is a substantially higher proportion of white students enrolled at both the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers, 77.2% and 86.9%, respectively.

District Enrollment by Gender

Historically, there has been very little change in the proportions of men and women enrolled at Los Rios colleges, fluctuating less than 1% between fall semesters. Chart 4 illustrates this fact; there was a very slight increase (0.6%) in the proportion of women enrolled at Los Rios from Fall 1994 to Fall 1999.

Chart 4
LRCCD Enrollment by Gender: Fall 1994 and Fall 1999



The enrollment pattern by gender varies somewhat among the Los Rios colleges. ARC has a higher proportion of male students (46.6%) and a lower proportion of female students (53.4%), than the District for Fall 1999. It is of importance to note ARC's enrollment profile is influenced by the enrollment demography of the Public Safety Center program now managed by the ARC campus, which comprises about 9.8% of the total ARC student population. The Public Safety Center's demography is much different than the ARC campus overall with higher proportions of older, male students enrolling in classes offered during the day only; 81.9% of all Public Safety Center students are male.

In comparison, CRC has a slightly higher proportion of female students (57.5%) than male students (42.5%). SCC's enrollment proportions of women to men for Fall 1999 varies slightly from the District, with 58.4% female and 41.6% male enrollment.

The proportion of females enrolled at Folsom Lake (64.0%) and El Dorado (66.7%) for Fall 1999 are much higher than the comparable District enrollment proportions.

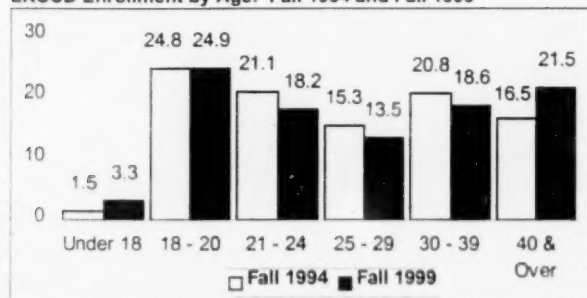
Fall 1999 District enrollment by gender based on ethnicity illustrates differing enrollment patterns within several ethnic categories. African American enrollment by gender has a substantially higher proportion of female students (61.6%) than males (38.4%). It is of interest to note that there has been a 1.3% increase in the proportion of African American females enrolled in Los Rios colleges since Fall 1994. This has occurred because the number of African American females enrolling each Fall has increased 44.6% from Fall 1994 to Fall 1999, compared to the 33.2% increase in enrollment for all students. The 37.0% increase in the number of African American males enrolled from Fall 1994 to Fall 1999 is slightly higher than the 33.2% enrollment increase for all students.

The proportion of female African American students is even higher at both CRC (66.0%) and SCC (62.4%). In comparison to the CRC and SCC enrollment proportions of Asian students by gender, Asians enroll relatively similar proportions of females (52.7%) and males (47.3%) district-wide. Although Asians enroll in similar gender proportions, there was a 2.0% increase in the proportion of Asian females enrolled in LRCCD since Fall 1994. The proportions of Latino and Native American enrollment by gender generally mirror the district pattern.

District Enrollment by Age Group

Chart 5 illustrates that LRCCD enrollment of students under-18 increased by 1.8% from Fall 1994 to Fall 1999, while enrollment of students between 18-20 remained relatively stable.

Chart 5
LRCCD Enrollment by Age: Fall 1994 and Fall 1999



The chart also illustrates decreases in each of the age categories for students between the ages of 21 to 39. The proportion of students enrolled who were 21-24 decreased by 2.9%, from 21.1% in Fall 1994 to 18.2% in Fall 1999. The proportion of students enrolled between the ages of 25-29 also decreased, by 1.8%, from 15.3% in Fall 1994 to 13.5% in Fall 1999. Similarly, the proportion of students enrolled between 30-39 decreased by 2.2%, from 20.8% of all students in Fall 1994 to 18.6% in Fall 1999. The most significant growth continues to be with those students 40-and-over, increasing by 5.0% from Fall 1994 to Fall 1999.

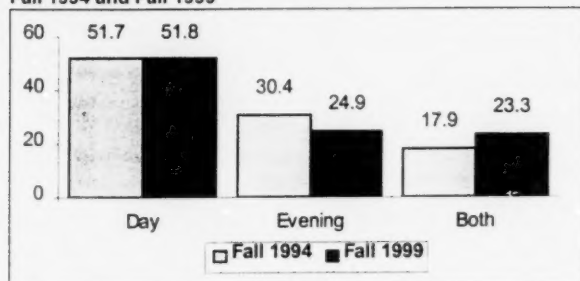
Overall, ARC and SCC enrollment patterns by age generally reflect the district enrollment pattern. ARC does however enroll slightly lower proportions of younger students under-20 than the district overall, 25.4% compared to 28.2% district-wide in Fall 1999. The 43.1% of ARC students 30-and-over enrolled is slightly higher than the 40.1% of students 30-and-over enrolled district-wide. The ARC age profile is also influenced by the enrollment demography from ARC's Public Safety Center, at which over 80% of the students enrolled are 30-and-over. The proportion of ARC students 30-and-over without the Public Safety Center enrollment generally reflects District proportions. In contrast, SCC tends to enroll a higher proportion of students who are younger. The proportion of SCC students who are 29-and-under in Fall 1999 was 64.8% compared to 59.9% district-wide. Comparatively, the proportion of SCC students 30-and-over who enrolled in Fall 1999 was 35.2% compared to 40.1% district-wide.

Comparing CRC's enrollment by age without the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers demonstrates a slightly younger population enrolling at CRC (5.1% of Fall 1999 students are under-18 and 28.7% are ages 18-20) and slightly lower proportions of older students (only 17.8% of CRC students are 40-and-over). Folsom Lake Center enrolls higher proportions of both students under-18 (8.7%) and students 30-39 (31.0%) than does the district overall. The El Dorado Center also enrolls higher proportions of students under-18 (8.4%) as well as students 18-20 (27.0%) and students 30-39 (30.7%) than comparable district proportions.

District Enrollment by Day and Evening Attendance

Chart 6 compares the District proportions of day and evening attendance for Fall 1994 and Fall 1999. Figures indicate that the proportions of students taking courses offered only during the day remained unchanged from Fall 1994 to Fall 1999. However, there are 5.5% fewer students attending courses offered during the evening only in Fall 1999.

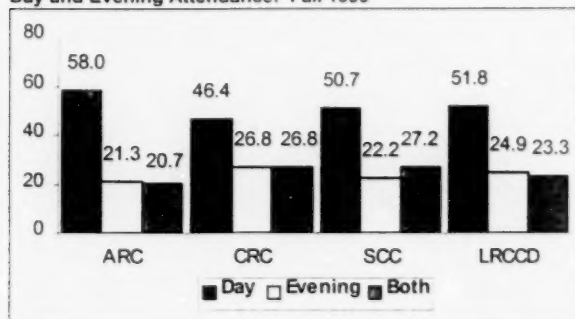
Chart 6
LRCCD Enrollment by Day and Evening:
Fall 1994 and Fall 1999



Conversely, 5.4% more students in Fall 1999 are attending *both* day and evening courses than was the case five years earlier.

Chart 7 illustrates the differing day and evening attendance patterns at each of the Los Rios colleges. The proportion of ARC students attending during the day only is higher than that of the district, however a lower proportion of ARC students enroll in courses offered during the evening only and courses offered both during the day and the evening than comparable students district-wide. ARC enrollment patterns by day and evening are heavily influenced by the vast majority of day only (95.0%) Public Safety Center students. The proportion of ARC students attending during the day only excluding the Public Safety Center from analysis is 54.0%. Although still higher than district proportions, it is more reflective of district enrollment patterns overall.

Chart 7
Day and Evening Attendance: Fall 1999



Comparatively, CRC students enroll in day only courses in slightly lower proportions than students district-wide as well as students at either ARC or SCC. As such, the proportion of CRC students enrolling in courses offered during the evening only and courses offered *both* during the day and evening is slightly higher than ARC, SCC and district-wide proportions. SCC's proportional enrollment of students taking day only courses is very similar to district enrollment for Fall 1999. SCC has the highest proportion of students enrolled in *both* day and evening courses, 27.2%, than each of the other two colleges and district-wide.

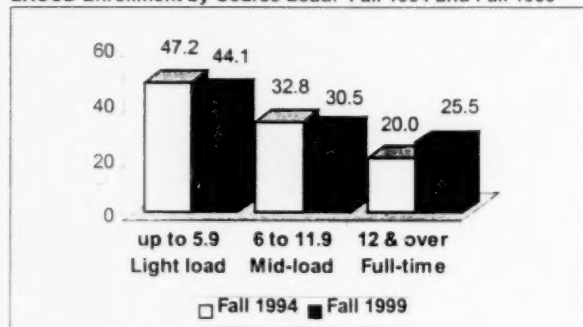
The highest proportion of Folsom Lake Center students, 42.7%, attend courses offered in the evening only in Fall 1999. Comparatively, El Dorado student enrollment proportions by day/evening attendance is different than those of Folsom Lake whereby students at El Dorado are fairly evenly distributed between day only, evening only and *both* day and evening courses.

Unit Load by District Students

Three categories of unit load are illustrated in Chart 8 to demonstrate trends in students' course loads in Fall 1994 and Fall 1999. "Light load" students are those taking fewer than six units; "mid-load" students are those taking six to 11.9 units; and "full-time" students are those with 12 or more units.

Chart 8 demonstrates both the five-year decline in part-time student enrollment at Los Rios colleges and the increase in full-time enrollment, up from 20.0% in Fall 1994 to 25.5% in Fall 1999. There was a 5.5% decline in the proportion of Los Rios students who are part-time (mid and light-load), decreasing from 80.0% in Fall 1994 to 74.6% in Fall 1999.

Chart 8
LRCCD Enrollment by Course Load: Fall 1994 and Fall 1999



Sacramento City College had both the greatest proportion of full-time students (31.2%) as well as the largest increase in full-time students, increasing by 7.2% from Fall 1994. The proportion of full-time CRC students decreased by 1.5% from 30.0% in Fall 1994 to 28.5% in Fall 1999. American River College had 23.5% full-time students increasing by 5.7% from the 17.8% full-time students in Fall 1994. The proportion of full-time students at ARC is an even higher 25.6% when the predominantly part-time Public Safety Center enrollment is not included in the ARC demographic analysis. It remains clear that all of the colleges are still predominantly part-time institutions, but full-time student enrollment on a district-wide basis is on the increase. This reflects the growing numbers of high school graduates attending Los Rios colleges, a cohort that generally takes higher unit loads. There are 10.9% more high school graduates attending Los Rios colleges in Fall 1999 compared to Fall 1998.

As would be expected, due to facilities limitations, proportions of students who take light class loads are substantially higher at the centers, 60.3% at Folsom Lake and 51.4% at El Dorado. The proportion of mid-load students enrolled at both the centers is equivalent, but the proportions are slightly lower than the district overall. It is interesting to note that although the 14.5% proportion of full-time students enrolled in Folsom Lake is lower than district proportions, the 23.2% of full-time students enrolled in El Dorado is just slightly lower than district proportions in Fall 1999.

Enrollment Status of District Students

Almost half, 48.9%, of LRCCD students enrolled are continuing students, which represents the largest proportion of Fall 1999 student enrollment. However worth noting, is the increase in the proportion of special admit students enrolled, increasing by 2.5% from 0.7% in Fall 1994 to 3.2% of all students in Fall 1999.

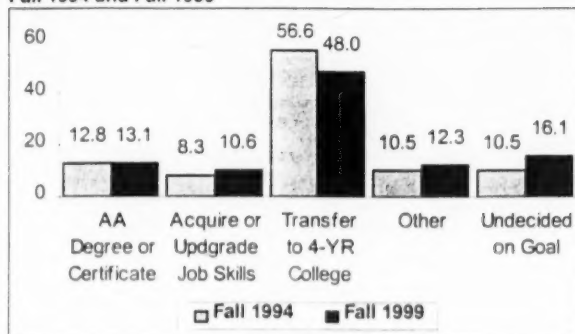
New student proportional enrollment remained virtually unchanged from Fall 1994 to Fall 1999 and there was a slight 1.0% decrease in the proportion of transfer students. There was, however, a slight increase in the proportion of students enrolled returning after an absence, increasing by 1.3% from 14.9% in Fall 1994 to 16.2% of all students in Fall 1999.

One of the most interesting things about enrollment by student status at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers is the high proportion of special admit students, a possible reflection of ongoing high school recruitment efforts at the two centers. Likewise, all the colleges are developing strong relationships with local feeder high schools. The proportion of special admit students at Folsom Lake Center is 10.3% and at El Dorado Center the proportion is 9.4%. CRC also has a higher proportion, 5.3%, of special admit students compared to 3.2% across the district.

District Enrollment by Educational Goal

In an effort to better understand the goals of our students, Chart 9 depicts the educational goals of Los Rios students for Fall 1994 and Fall 1999. The proportion of students with the goal of obtaining an Associate's Degree or Certificate has remained relatively unchanged, increasing by a slight 0.3% from Fall 1994 to Fall 1999. Of particular interest, however, is the 6.6% decline in students who have a goal to transfer to a 4-year college and is an area to monitor in the future.

Chart 9
LRCCD Enrollment by Educational Goal:
Fall 1994 and Fall 1999



There was a 2.3% increase in the proportion of students enrolled in a Los Rios college to acquire or upgrade their job skills, from 8.3% in Fall 1994 to 10.6% in Fall 1999. The proportion of students enrolled at a Los Rios college for other reasons (GED Completion, Education Development, Basic Skills Improvement, Discover Career Interests and Maintain Certificate or License) increased from 10.5% in Fall 1994 to 12.3% in Fall 1999. Those students undecided on their educational goal increased by 5.6%, from 10.5% in Fall 1994 to 16.1% in Fall 1999.

Considering the profile of students at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers, as well as facilities limitations, it is interesting to note that the goals of these students are not all that much different than those of Los Rios students district-wide. Although the proportions are slightly lower (43.2% at Folsom Lake and 41.3% at El Dorado) than the District (48.0%), the highest proportion of students at these centers have the same goals as students throughout the district, to transfer to a 4-year institution with or without an Associate's Degree. However, there are also higher proportions of students enrolled who are interested in other types of educational goals, 16.5% at Folsom Lake and 19.9% at El Dorado. Students also enroll in slightly higher proportions in their effort to acquire or upgrade job skills, 11.2% at El Dorado and an even higher 16.2% of Folsom Lake students, compared to 10.6% of students district-wide.

Summary Remarks

The data presented in the Fall 1999 Profile illustrate the overall growth of Los Rios Community College District's enrollment as well as changing demographic trends. Enrollment has increased annually beginning in Fall 1996 and the increases continued in Fall 1999, by 5.9%. Fall 1999 WSCH increased by a slightly lower 4.9%, which could partially reflect the 10.1% enrollment growth at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers and the tendency for these students to take lighter class loads.

Long term demographic trends remained relatively constant in Fall 1999. The proportions of ethnic minority students enrolled at Los Rios remained stable as did enrollment by gender. The trend of an older student body at Los Rios continues, with 21.5% of all students enrolled 40-and-over. There is also an increase in the number of younger students, as well. Comparison of Fall 1994 to Fall 1999 by age indicates a 1.8% increase in students enrolled who are under-18, reflecting enrollment increases of Special Admits (students concurrently enrolled in local schools and colleges) as well as a high school graduate population that is increasing, exemplified by the 10.9% more high school graduates attending Los Rios colleges in Fall 1999 compared to Fall 1998. Growth of high school graduates is expected to continue to increase substantially in Greater Sacramento and is likely to impact the District's enrollment in future semesters.

Attendance patterns have shifted over the past five years with fewer students taking courses offered only during the evening and more attending both day and evening courses in Fall 1999. The proportions of students enrolled in day only courses remained constant from Fall 1994 to Fall 1999. Although Los Rios remains a predominantly part-time institution there is a shift in course load patterns of district students. The proportion of full-time students increased by 5.5%, from 20.0% in Fall 1994 to 25.5% in Fall 1999.

American River College's demography is highly influenced by the 9.8% of Public Safety Center students. The Public Safety Center is a criminal justice program with demography that is very different than the overall ARC student demographic profile. Public Safety Center students tend to be older male students, the majority of whom take their courses during the day only and are predominantly part-time students.

The vast majority of Los Rios students are continuing students. However, worth noting is the 2.5% increase in special admit students from Fall 1994 to Fall 1999. This can be partially attributed to the higher proportions of special admit students at Folsom Lake (10.3%), El Dorado (9.4%) and CRC (5.3%) compared to the 3.2% special admit student enrollment across the district.

Students with the goal of obtaining an Associate's Degree or Certificate remained relatively unchanged from Fall 1994 to Fall 1999. However, the proportion of students who are working towards transferring to a 4-year institution declined 8.6% from Fall 1994 to Fall 1999. Such shifts in the goals of Los Rios students are worth monitoring for future planning needs.

The Fall 1999 Profile includes separate demographic profiles for the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers.

Although there are similarities with the district, there are some noteworthy differences in the student profiles of these two centers. Folsom Lake and El Dorado have a higher proportion of female students, a substantially higher proportion of white students, of students under-18 and those students 30-39 compared to students district-wide.

As expected, due to facility limitations at the centers, a substantial proportion of Folsom Lake students enroll in evening only classes. However, El Dorado student enrollment proportions are fairly evenly distributed between day only, evening only and both day and evening courses. Likewise, enrollment proportions of students who take light class loads are substantially higher than those of all Los Rios students.

Separate analysis of the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers allows us the ability to evaluate the enrollment patterns of students specific to the CRC campus. One of the most noteworthy results is that the CRC ethnic composition looks more like that of SCC than like the district overall. In fact, CRC enrolls higher proportions of both African American and Asian students than does SCC.

The Fall 1999 profile is based on unduplicate student demography generated from the fall First Census reports that are issued for the fourth week of classes from the research database. Of additional interest to enrollment stability and growth and shifting demographic trends is the increase in the number of duplicate students -- those students attending more than one Los Rios college. The number of duplicate enrollees increased from approximately 677 in Fall 1994 to 1,307 students in Fall 1999, a 93.1% increase. This suggests that the number of students who are mobile and willing to travel to take the courses they need is expanding.

One of the strengths of the 1999 Fall Profile is the stronger capability to report those areas of demographic stability as well as demographic shifts, an important tool in the Los Rios Community College District's continuing efforts to meet the diverse needs of our current and future student population.

This report was written by Betty Glycer-Culver, Research Analyst, and is based on data generated from the LRCCD Research Database, developed and managed by Minh La, Senior Systems Analyst.

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